GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:685
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2017
Financial Allocation for Conducting Scientific Research
K. Shri Parasuraman

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fiscal allocation made by the Government for the purpose of conducting scientific research in the country for the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce scheme for encouraging universities to undertake new research studies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y.S. CHOWDHARY)

(a) The details offiscal allocation of the Ministry of Science and Technology for the purpose of conducting scientific research in the country during the last three years and FY 2017-18are given as under: -

Departments Funds Allocated
(Rs. in cr)
Plan
2014-15 Plan
2015-16 Plan
2016-17 2017-18
Department of Science and Technology 2500.00 3401.50 3981.00 4837.27
Department of Biotechnology 1395.00 1606.80 1895.20 2222.11
Department of Scientific & Industrial Research 1600.00 2192.50 2297.18 4446.00
Total Ministry of Science and Technology 5495.00 7199.80 8173.38 11505.38

Accordingly, the fiscal allocation of the Ministry of Science and Technology for the purpose of conducting scientific research in the country have gone up from Rs. 5495.0 cr in 2014-15 to Rs. 11505.38 cr. in 2017-18.

(b) & (c): Department of Science and Technology (DST) has already taken up several initiatives e.g.Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST), Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE), Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIF) and Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in women universities (CURIE) programmes for encouraging universities to undertake new research studies. These programmes are being implemented to promote Science and Technology and research studies in the country.

The FIST Programme was launched in Financial Year 2000-01. The Programme is operated at three levels i.e., Level -0, Level-I & Level-II for six (06) Subject Areas viz., Life, Physical, Chemical, Engineering, Earth & Atmospheric, Mathematical Sciences in the Universities. Post Graduate Colleges having science departments are also supported under this programme. During the last 16 years, more than 2480 Departments (including 352 PG Colleges) have received FIST support at a total budget of ~Rs. 2379 crore.

In appreciation of the Research & Development (R&D) contributions of the performing universities, PURSE Program was initiated by the DST.PURSE scheme provides substantive research grant to universities based on scientific publications in Science Citation Indexed Journals through SCOPUS Database. PURSE Scheme has provided a triggering mechanism for promoting publication oriented research in the University sector deploying evidence based approaches. There has been significant increase in R & D output in 44 PURSE supported Universities. In addition, DST has initiated CURIE programme in 2009 to develop state-of-the-art infrastructure and to promote R&D activities in 6 women only universities.

Sophisticated analytical instruments are vital for research in many areas of science and technology. Research infrastructures in the different Universities have been augmented and modernized to carry out both basic and advanced research in contemporary areas of science and technology. The DST has set up 18 SAIFs in different parts of the country to provide the facilities of sophisticated analytical instruments to the researchers in general, and specially from the institutions that do not have such high end instrumentation facilities, to enable them to pursue R&D activities and keep pace with developments taking place globally.

Apart from the above, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of the Department has recently launched a new scheme

entitled 'VAJRA' (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) to bring strong international connect to the R&D ecosystem of the country; thereby encouraging universities and other academic and research institutions to undertake new research studies. The scheme offers adjunct /visiting faculty assignments to overseas scientists, faculty members and R&D professionals including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to undertake high quality collaborative research in Public funded academic and research Institutions in the country.

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